



1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 692

2 WHEREAS, Postsecondary education is increasingly an  
3 essential credential for success in the modern economy; and

4 WHEREAS, Affordability of a college degree is a growing  
5 concern to students, families, and State policymakers; and

6 WHEREAS, The cost of textbooks is a substantial and  
7 escalating burden for students; and

8 WHEREAS, Other states have undertaken legislative and  
9 administrative measures to curtail the rising expense of  
10 textbook purchases; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Board of Higher  
13 Education, in conjunction with the Illinois Community College  
14 Board and public universities and community colleges, shall  
15 conduct a thorough and comprehensive study of the cost and  
16 feasibility of implementing textbook rental programs at public  
17 universities and community colleges; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall explore  
19 the feasibility of various funding sources to establish a  
20 revolving fund to finance start-up costs for textbook rental  
21 programs at public universities and community colleges; and be  
22 it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall examine  
24 measures considered or adopted in other states, including the  
25 unbundling of software or other supplementary materials from  
26 the sale of textbooks; the public listing of titles, prices,  
27 and ISBN numbers of required textbooks; and the disclosure of  
28 textbook costs to faculty; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall  
2 investigate the potential for technology to reduce textbook  
3 costs, including online book swaps, an electronic  
4 clearinghouse for the purchase of textbooks, and e-book  
5 alternatives to published textbooks; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall, for  
7 each of the issues set forth for investigation in this  
8 resolution: (1) solicit and report in its findings the views of  
9 private entities that currently operate bookstores either on  
10 behalf of or independent of one or more public universities or  
11 community colleges in this State, including, but not limited  
12 to, the National Association of College Stores, the Illinois  
13 Retail Merchants Association, Follett Higher Education Group,  
14 and other entities operating as campus bookstore managers; and  
15 (2) solicit and report the views of textbook authors and  
16 publishers, including, but not limited to, the Association of  
17 American Publishers, the Association of American University  
18 Presses, postsecondary textbook publishers, and faculty  
19 representatives; and be it further; and

20           RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education, the  
21 Department of Revenue, and the Department of Commerce and  
22 Economic Opportunity shall thoroughly assess and report in the  
23 Board of Higher Education's findings the economic impact that  
24 current textbook purchasing arrangements and that a textbook  
25 rental program and other cost-saving alternatives would have on  
26 public universities and community colleges, State government,  
27 local governments, students, and private entities that  
28 currently operate bookstores either on behalf of or independent  
29 of one or more public universities or community colleges in  
30 this State; and be it further

31           RESOLVED, That the Board of Higher Education shall report  
32 its findings and recommendations to the chairpersons of the  
33 Higher Education and Appropriations III Committees of the

1 Senate no later than January 15, 2007; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
3 delivered to the Governor, the chairperson of the Board of  
4 Higher Education, the chairperson of the Illinois Community  
5 College Board, and the president of each public university and  
6 community college in this State.